UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Marius Vanzelst :	
76 Quiet Road :	
Levittown, PA 19057 :	#
Plaintiff :	
v. : Nationwide Insurance Company : One Nationwide Plaza : Columbus, OH 43215 :	
Defendants :	

COMPLAINT

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff, Marius Vanzelst, is an adult individual and resident of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing at the address listed in the above caption
- 2. Defendant, Nationwide Insurance Company, was at all times material hereto, an insurance company, duly authorized and licensed to practice its profession by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and was engaged in the practice of providing insurance policies, including but not limited to motor vehicle liability policies including underinsured and uninsured motorist coverage.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. This Court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter of this Civil Action-Complaint in that the Plaintiff is a citizen of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Defendant, upon information and belief is a corporate entity with its principal place of business

in the State of Ohio and the amount in controversy in this case, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the sum of \$75,000.

4. Venue is proper in this jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) (1) and (2) in that this is a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims asserted in this Complaint occurred in this judicial district.

FACTS

- 1. On or about June 30, 2015 at approximately 2:10 p.m. Plaintiff was the operator of a motor vehicle, which was traveling on Trenton Road, at or near the intersection of Heartwarm Road, in Middletown, PA.
- 2. At the same date and time, tortfeasor, Stephen Capella, was the operator of a motor vehicle which was traveling at or near the aforesaid intersection and/or location of plaintiff's vehicle.
- 3. At or about the same date and time, tortfeasor's vehicle was involved in a motor vehicle collision with Plaintiff's vehicle.
- 4. The aforesaid motor vehicle collision was the direct result of the tortfeasor negligently, recklessly and/or carelessly operating his vehicle in such a manner so as to rear-end Plaintiff's vehicle.
- 5. The aforesaid motor vehicle collision was the result of the negligence, recklessness and/or carelessness of the tortfeasor and not the result of any action or failure to act by the Plaintiff.
- 6. As a result of the accident, the Plaintiff suffered serious, severe and permanent bodily injuries as set forth more fully below.

<u>COUNT I</u> Marius Vanzelst v. Nationwide Insurance Company

Underinsured Motorists Coverage

- 7. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth fully at length herein.
- 8. The negligence, carelessness, and/or recklessness of the tortfeasor, which was the direct and sole cause of the aforesaid motor vehicle accident and the injuries and damages sustained by the Plaintiff, consisted of, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Rear-ending Plaintiff's vehicle;
 - b. Failing to yield the right-of-way;
 - c. Operating his/her vehicle into Plaintiff's lane of travel;
 - d. Failing to maintain proper distance between vehicles;
 - e. Operating said vehicle in a negligent and/or careless manner without regard for the rights or safety of plaintiff or others;
 - f. Failing to have said vehicle under proper and adequate control;
 - g. Operating said vehicle at a dangerous and excessive rate of speed under the circumstances;
 - h. Violation of the "assured clear distance ahead" rule;
 - i. Failure to keep a proper lookout;
 - Failure to apply brakes earlier to stop the vehicle without rear-ending Plaintiff's vehicle;
 - k. Being inattentive to his/her duties as an operator of a motor vehicle;
 - 1. Disregarding traffic lanes, patterns, and other devices;
 - m. Driving at a high rate of speed which was high and dangerous for conditions;

- n. Failing to remain continually alert while operating said vehicle;
- Failing to perceive the highly apparent danger to others which the actions and/or inactions posed;
- Failing to give Plaintiff meaningful warning signs concerning the impending collision;
- q. Failing to exercise ordinary care to avoid a collision;
- r. Failing to be highly vigilant and maintain sufficient control of said vehicle and to bring it to a stop on the shortest possible notice;
- s. Operating said vehicle with disregard for the rights of Plaintiff, even though he was aware or should have been aware of the presence of Plaintiff and the threat of harm posed to her;
- t. Continuing to operate the vehicle in a direction towards Plaintiff's vehicle when he saw, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have seen, that further operation in that direction would result in a collision;
- Failing to operate said vehicle in compliance with the applicable laws and ordinances of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pertaining to the operation and control of motor vehicles;
- 9. As a direct and consequential result of the negligent, careless, and/or reckless conduct of the tortfeasor, described above, the Plaintiff suffered various serious and permanent personal injuries, serious impairment of bodily function and/or permanent serious disfigurement and/or aggravation of pre-existing conditions, all to Plaintiff's great loss and detriment.
- 10. As a result of these injuries, all of which are permanent in nature and all of which are to Plaintiff's great financial detriment and loss, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and may in the

future suffer great anguish, sickness and agony and will continue to suffer for an indefinite time

into the future.

11. As an additional result of the carelessness, negligence and/or recklessness of

defendants, Plaintiff has suffered emotional injuries, along with the physical injuries suffered.

12. As a further result of the aforesaid injuries, Plaintiff has in the past, is presently and

may in the future undergo a great loss of earnings and/or earning capacity, all to Plaintiff's

further loss and detriment.

13. Upon information and belief, at the time of the aforementioned motor vehicle collision,

the aforesaid tortfeasor's motor vehicle insurance policy and/or liability insurance were

insufficient to fully and adequately compensate Plaintiff for the injuries suffered in the above set

forth motor vehicle collision and/or other damages and expenses related thereto.

14. At the date and time of the aforementioned motor vehicle collision, Plaintiff, was the

owner and operator of a motor vehicle was covered by a policy of insurance issued by Defendant,

under Policy Number 58E262504, which included coverage for underinsured motorist coverage

applicable to Plaintiff.

15. Accordingly, Plaintiff asserts an Underinsured Motorist Claim against Defendant.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment in Plaintiff's favor and against defendant, in

an amount in excess of Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000.00) Dollars, plus all costs and other

relief this court deems necessary.

SIMON & SIMON, P.C.

BY: mis3364

Marc I. Simon, Esquire

VERIFICATION

I, ______, am the plaintiff in this action, and I hereby state that the facts set forth in the foregoing Complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that this verification is subject to 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 providing for criminal penalties for unsworn falsification to authorities.

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